

IN THIS ISSUE

- Welcome Note pg 1
- Special Thank You pg 1
- Take Pride School pg 2
- Save the Mustangs pg 2
- Awards Reminder pg 2
- BLM Awards pg 3
- NPS Awards pg 3
- Forest Service Awards pg 3
- NASCC Spotlight pg 4
- Good Sam Club pg 4
- Bikers Maintain Trails pg 4
- Las Vegas Cleans Up pg 5
- Earth Day Activities pg 5

UP-COMING EVENTS

- June
Great Outdoors Month
www.greatoutdoorsmonth.org
- June 4
National Trails Day
www.americanhiking.org/events/ntd/
- June 4-12
National Fishing and Boating Week
www.nationalfishingandboatingweek.org
- June 5-11
Great Outdoors Week
- June 26-July 7
National Clean Beaches Week
www.cleanbeaches.org
- September 24
National Public Lands Day
www.npld.com

A Note from our Executive Director

Our partnerships make all the difference! The Take Pride partnerships have never been more visible, nor more important, than last week as we filmed with Clint Eastwood our public service announcements, informational video, radio spots, print materials, and launched our first Take Pride in America School. Our partners stepped forward to provide funding for the production of the PSAs and related materials, helped plan and coordinate the scripts and events, and participated with us in Carmel. Without our partners (see the full list in the special "thank you" box), we would not have a logo for our new Schools program, would not have had t-shirts for the Carmel River School kids, would not have had a great work event, and would not have the great video, print and radio materials that will help us spread the Take Pride message across the country. Many, many thanks to all of our partners - we can achieve very little without you!



Clint Eastwood, Marti Allbright and Secretary Norton celebrate with students from Carmel River School.

On another note, we are happy to announce our first ever Take Pride in America School - congratulations Carmel River School in Carmel, California! Schools participating in this new program agree to participate in two events benefiting public lands a year. Take Pride Schools will be eligible for our annual National Awards in the Schools category and will receive recognition on our website and in the Take Pride newsletter. Please contact us for more information, or to sign up your school.

Sincerely,

Marti Allbright

Marti Allbright

Thank You!

Your contributions make Take Pride a success

- | | |
|---|---|
| • Outside Las Vegas Foundation | • Motorcycle Industry Council |
| • Unilever | • Specialty Vehicle Institute of America |
| • Disney | • Ruth Coleman, Director California State Parks |
| • Recreation Boating & Fishing Foundation | • Mike Chrisman, California Secretary for Resources |
| • National Marine Manufacturers Association | • California State Parks |
| • Zodiac of North America | • Clint Eastwood |
| • Good Sam Club | • Mission Ranch |
| • Cummins Power Generation/Onan Generators | • California Youth Conservation Corps |
| • Recreation Vehicle Dealers Association | • Jay Marden, Principal of Carmel River School |
| • Kampgrounds of America | |

First Take Pride in America School

Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton, joined by actor and Take Pride in America National Spokesman Clint Eastwood, announced the Carmel River School in Carmel, California as the first Take Pride in America School.

The announcement followed a wetlands restoration project involving 52 Carmel River School students at the Carmel River State Park, along with Secretary Norton, Eastwood, youth from the California Conservation Corps, and other volunteers.

"I am pleased to announce both the Take Pride School program, and the designation of Carmel River School as our first Take Pride School," said Norton. "The faculty, staff, parents and students of Carmel River School have made a conscious decision to make both community service and environmental education priorities for the students. Principal Jay Marden is setting a wonderful example of leadership in these priorities. We are proud to welcome Carmel River School into the Take Pride program."

To be designated as a Take Pride in America School, a school must commit

to participating in two Take Pride in America volunteer projects each year benefiting public lands. Participation can be by an entire school, a class or even an after-school club. Designated schools are eligible for national awards, as well as other recognition.

The school program is designed to create a new generation of environmentally-aware citizens and life-long volunteers.



Secretary Norton, Clint Eastwood and students from Carmel River School all worked together to restore wetlands.

In addressing students, staff and parents, and Take Pride partners at the school, Secretary Norton and Take Pride in America executive director Marti Allbright both expressed their gratitude to Clint Eastwood, who serves as the national spokesman for Take Pride in America.

Earlier in the day, Eastwood recorded a series of public service announcements to air nationally later this year. Secretary Norton presented Eastwood with a special Take Pride in America award to commemorate his contributions of time and talent to the program.

"I am very happy to help further the mission of Take Pride in America. It was a cause I supported when it was first launched 20 years ago, and the message of caring for our public lands is one that I continue to support," said Eastwood.

The public service announcements will air on national and local broadcast and cable outlets beginning this summer.

"Save the Mustangs" Fund

On May 19, 2005 in Hot Spring, SD, Ford Motor Company announced its plan to help save about 2,000 wild mustangs that currently face an uncertain future.

As part of that initiative, Ford has partnered with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and Take Pride in America to create the "Save the Mustangs" fund. The fund, which will be administered by Take Pride in America, was established to serve as a way for the public to contribute financial support to help maintain these wild horses in their new habitats.

"This new partnership is an example of how the public sector and private indus-

try can work together to help provide for long-term care of these animals, while sustaining the health and productivity of America's public lands," said Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton

Take Pride in America, Ford Motor Company, and the BLM invite your partnership in helping preserve these horses and the spirit of the West by contributing to the



"Save the Mustangs" fund. Donations will be used to help ensure that the horses have good homes, food and care. For more information on the "Save the Mustangs" Fund and to donate, please visit <http://www.savethemustangs.org>. Contributions are tax deductible.

Awards Reminder

Time is running out! – The nomination deadline for the 2005 National Take Pride in America Awards is June 15. If you haven't already done so, please remember to nominate those deserving individuals and groups in your area.

For more information on how to nominate, please visit www.TakePride.gov/awards/default.cfm. Projects that have taken place between June 1, 2004 and June 5, 2005 are eligible.

AWARDS

Bureau of Land Management Volunteers Make a Difference

Five Bureau of Land Management (BLM) volunteers, two organizations, and one BLM employee received a prestigious national award for their public service contributions at a May 11, 2005 ceremony at the Department of the Interior's South Penthouse in Washington, D.C.



Sec. Norton speaks during the BLM awards ceremony at the Department of the Interior's South Penthouse in Washington, D.C..

Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton was the featured speaker at the BLM awards ceremony, which also included remarks by Assistant Secretary Rebecca Watson; BLM Deputy Director Jim Hughes; and BLM Associate State Directors for those states represented by award winners.

Each year since 1996, BLM has honored exceptional volunteers, as well as BLM employees who work with volunteers, through its "Making a Difference" national awards program. This program supports the President's call for increased service to America and is also part of the Take Pride in America initiative.

Congratulations to these Award Winners

- Jeff Landis, Arizona
- Barbara Williams, California
- Larry Haight, Montana
- Willie Stephenitch, Nevada
- Darrell and Terri Wade, Nevada
- Socorro Field Office Off-Highway Vehicle Program Volunteers, New Mexico
- Jefferson County Adult & Juvenile Community Justice Program, Oregon
- BLM employee Manuel Guerra, New Mexico

National Park Service's Outstanding Volunteers

National Park Service Director Fran Mainella honored recipients of the Volunteer Accessibility Achievement Award and the George B. Hartzog, Jr. Awards for Outstanding Volunteer Service at a Take Pride in America event held on April 28.

"The National Park Service is proud of the many exceptional volunteers who provide outstanding service to our national parks. These special people give freely of their valuable time for the benefit of all who enjoy our parks," said Mainella.

Congratulations to these Award Winners

- Accessibility Award
BWXT Y-12
- Hartzog Individual Award
Georgeann Smale
- Hartzog Group Award
Fort McHenry Guard Living History Unit
- Hartzog VIP Award
Homestead National Monument of America

The Hartzog Awards for Outstanding Volunteer Service were established in 2002 to recognize the commitment of the Service's volunteers. The awards recognize individuals, groups and Volunteers In Parks (VIP) programs. The VIP program has been considerably successful – in 2004, 140,000 volunteers contributed 5 million volunteer hours to the National Park Service at an estimated value of \$85.9 million.

The Volunteer Accessibility Achievement Award was initiated in the fall of 1998 to recognize outstanding accomplishments that result in greater opportunities for visitors with disabilities to enjoy national parks.



NPS volunteers are recognized for their contributions to public lands.

Forest Service Awards

Chief of Forest Service D. Dale Bosworth recently announced the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Interpretive Center Volunteers from the Lewis and Clark National Forest, Montana as the 2005 National Volunteer of the Year.

The award compliments and supports volunteers for their valued contributions to the Forest Service.

The volunteers developed, financed and provided visitor services to educate the public about the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

The Forest Service also announced its Exemplary Volunteer Service Award 2005. Seventeen individuals and 19 groups received awards for volunteer service.

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Conservation Corps Gives Tremendous Help

The National Association of Service and Conservation Corps (NASCC), a Take Pride charter partner, leads the growing movement of service and conservation corps – highly successful service programs for young people modeled on the Depression-era Civilian Conservation Corps. Today, there are nearly 100 corps operating across 38 states and the District of Columbia. In 2004, they enrolled over 23,000 young people, aged 16–25, who provided public lands and communities with 14.5 million hours of service. The corps mobilized an additional 129,000 community members to participate in their volunteer activities who contributed 1.5 million hours of service.

Much of NASCC and its conservation corps' work happens through the Public Lands Corps (PLC) program of the National Park Service. The PLC program allows a portion of Park visitor entrance fees to be set aside for this work and was designed in partnership with NASCC and the Student

Conservation Association ten years ago. PLC projects enlist youth crews that take on a variety of backlogged maintenance and visitor enhancement projects with the Park Service.



Kids clean up at an event with Earth Corps, a NASCC member in Seattle, WA.

Now NASCC other conservation corps are focusing on close to \$2 million of PLC project work with the Park Service.

To find out more about how NASCC and its corps are working to benefit public lands visit <http://www.nascc.org/>. To learn more about EarthCorps visit <http://www.earthcorps.org/>. Contact Matt Ferris at mferris@nascc.org with any questions.

Good Sam Club and Take Pride Team Up to Clean Up

Keeping up with America's 900 million acres of public land is not an easy task, but members of Good Sam Club and Take Pride in America were ready to do just that. For the second year, the two organizations joined to take part in the Good Sam Club's National Clean Up Day, May 14-15, 2005. This year's theme was "Helping to Preserve our Public Lands."

Good Sam Club is the world's largest RV owners organization with nearly one million member families. Their "one member, one piece of trash" approach blossomed into an all out effort among their member chapters to look after the spaces they enjoy.

Last year alone, more than 200 chapters participated in National Clean Up Day, donating nearly 20,000 hours collecting more than 3,000 bags of trash.

To show their dedication to the Cleanup Day efforts, Tennessee Good Sam

members incorporated their own cleanup event into their annual Samboree RV rally in conjunction with National Clean Up Day. On May 13, members focused their efforts on cleaning the James E. Ward Agricultural Center in Lebanon, Tennessee.

"We are very honored that the Tennessee Good Sam members have made the cleanup part of their Samboree activities," said Bray.



Joining Tennessee Good Sam Members at the clean-up was Take Pride in America executive director Marti Allbright.

"The Good Sam Club has shown a tremendous amount of dedication to America's open spaces," said Allbright. "Their National Clean Up is just an example of the many things they do to promote stewardship amongst their members. We were delighted to once again partner with them in this year's efforts."

Bikers Maintain Trails

Thirty members of the Great Falls Trailbike Riders Association (GFTBRA) braved spring rain showers and brisk breezes to perform maintenance on Forest Service trails in the Highwood Mountains on May 21. The Highwood Mountains are located about 35 miles east of Great Falls, MT. The work in this Take Pride in America project included cleaning and repairing water control structures, signs, and culverts on several trails and repairing a short section of the Kirby Creek trail that had been damaged by spring run-off.

Ron Wiseman, District Ranger for the Judith Rangers District said, "Working with groups like the Great Falls Trailbike Riders Association helps us extend our ability to manage and maintain our trail system. Volunteers help us get the most bang for the buck".

He continued to say, "When groups like GFTBRA take an active role in maintaining trails, they gain a sense of ownership and stewardship. They become our eyes and ears for enforcement issues and have been great about helping us locate and treat noxious weed infestations in the forest."



GFTBRA members worked hard to clean and repair trails in Great Falls, MT.

CITY SPOTLIGHT

Las Vegas Cleans Up

Armed with lawn mowers, weed wackers and trash bags, volunteers from the city of Las Vegas gathered in downtown neighborhoods to clean up.

Supported by the Take Pride City of Las Vegas and Mayor Oscar Goodman, these volunteers took pride in their city by making it a safer place to live and play.

The Downtown Centennial Clean Up, hosted by Las Vegas on April 23, brought together 510 youth and adults to make 14 downtown neighborhoods safer through clean-up efforts.

Volunteers cleaned homes inside and out, picked up trash, and distributed brochures on city code violations and safety. Also, 150 shrubs and 15 trees were planted as part of the Circle Park planting project.

A week earlier, the 2005 National Youth Service Day Coalition of Southern Nevada also helped to make Las Vegas safer – with art.

Working together, 350 volunteers (mostly youth) painted 300 tiles for a tile mural that recognizes National Youth Service Day and Las Vegas's

100th birthday. The mural will be assembled on six pillars at a children's park with the hope to prevent graffiti.



Mayor Goodman paints mural tiles with Las Vegas youth on National Youth Service Day.

National Parks Celebrate Earth Day

Caribbean National Forest, Rio Grande, PR

To celebrate Earth Day, volunteers gathered to Caribbean National Forest for a clean up project. Because of rainfall the event was moved from April 23 to April 30.

Despite these necessary last-minute changes, an outstanding 500 participants registered at the activity. Together they collected twelve tons of garbage including junk cars, air conditioners, televisions, tires and doors.

Natchez National Historical Park, Natchez, MS

Luckily the expected rain held off. Still, it was unseasonably cold and windy on April 23, 2005 at Natchez National Historical Park during its second annual Take Pride in America event. In celebration of Earth Day, over 50 volunteers of all ages joined National Park Service staff at the historic Melrose estate to further restore the park's historic landscape.

Many local groups came out to help – Girl Scouts; Adams County 4-H; Ruritan; students, parents, and teachers from

McLaurin Elementary School; Friends of the Forks of the Road; and former NPS employees. Several citizens of Natchez also came individually.

Volunteers painted steps; removed embedded brick around historic cabins; transplanted several exotic trees; mulched, pruned and cleared vines; and pulled weeds and grass around bulbs. Additionally, a core group of gardeners have agreed to form an on-going "friends" group to care for and restore the formal gardens. Combining hard work and cheerful attitudes, the group put in about 225 volunteer hours for the park.



Cleaning up overgrown trees is part of restoring the historic Melrose Place

Welcome Take Pride Congressional Partners

- Senator Ben Nelson, Nebraska
- Congressman Jim Langevin, Rhode Island
- Congressman Tom Price, Georgia
- Congressman Charlie Rangel, New York

For Your Information

Good bye to Dawn Libby. We appreciate all her work with Take Pride. You will truly be missed!

Welcome to Lisa Young, our new Program Assistant, and Erin Gong, our summer intern!

We now have available the Take Pride in America Power Point presentation should you need one for an upcoming conference.

Please continue to send us your photos, event evaluation forms and write-ups of your events!

Email takepride@ios.doi.gov for our Power Point or if you have information for our newsletter. We look forward to highlighting you!

Thank you...

Thanks to our contributors for this edition of "In Touch With Take Pride," please keep sending us articles for future editions.

Sincerely,
Take Pride Staff